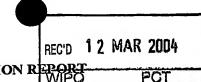


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

(Rationalised Report according to the Notice of the President of the EPO published in the OJ11/2001)

(Kanonansed Report Level Ling 1			
Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)		
2002.011 WO International application No.	International filing date (da	y/month/year)	Priority date (day month year)
	11/07/2003		17/07/2002
PCT/EP03/07611 11/07/2003 17/07/2002 International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC			
C12N15/31			
Applicant			
AKZO NOBEL N.V. et al.			
 This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36. 			
2. This REPORT consists of a total of sheets, including this cover sheet.			
This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).			
These annexes consists of a total of sheets.			
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:			
I X Basis of the report			
II Priority			
III X Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability			
IV X Lack of unity of invention			
V X Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement			
VI Certain documents cited			
VII Certain defects in the international application			
VIII Certain observations on the international application			
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Date of submission of the demand		•	
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		Authorized officer	and
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/		BOUTRUCHE J	EE (E)
European Patent Office, P.B NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Net Tel.: (+31-70) 340-2040	herlands	Tel. (+49-89) 239	E E 9 2828
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Tel. (+49-89) 2399 2828			
Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet) P2047	10 (October 2002)		

I. Basis of the report

The basis of this international preliminary examination is the application as originally filed.

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

If all the additional search fees, which the applicant has been invited to pay, have not been paid, then all the inventions or groups of inventions corresponding to the unpaid fees will not have been searched. This means that the question of whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step, or to be industrially applicable has not been the subject of the international preliminary examination in respect of the claims corresponding to these inventions or groups of inventions (Article 17(3)(a) and Rule 66.1(e) PCT; see also international search report).

IV. Lack of unity of invention

The objection as to lack of unity raised in the international search report is maintained. The reasons for the objection are the same as those indicated in the international search report.

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability

To the extent that the international preliminary examination has been carried out (see item III above), the following is pointed out:

In light of the documents cited in the international search report, it is considered that the invention as defined in the independent claims, which have been the subject of an international search report, meets the criteria mentioned in Article 33(1) PCT, i.e. appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step and to be industrially applicable.